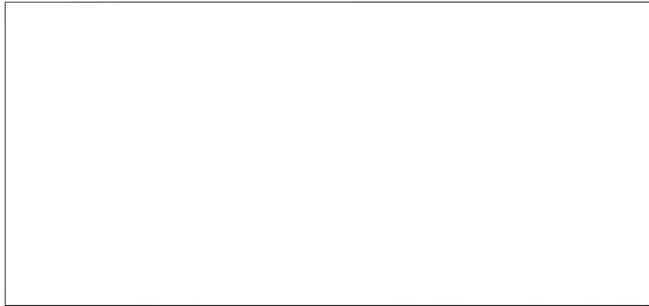


FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
2430 E Street, NW
Washington 25, D.C.

24 February 1949



Receipt of your 15 February 1949 letter reporting your interesting experience with one [redacted] is acknowledged.

Although most interesting and somewhat amusing, your letter causes me concern in that I am not so sure that we stand on ground as firm as you have concluded. The ramifications of the laws of the various countries concerning defamation, libel, slander, etc., are extensive and this, together with copyright, unfair competition, etc., has been the subject of considerable discussion between ourselves and the BEC. The problem is now being studied by our legal staff as well as that of the BEC in an attempt to work out some procedure that will insure maximum protection to us both.

I have not the slightest idea what the laws of [redacted] have to say in this connection. Generally speaking, however, the mere fact that a statement is broadcast in clear text for the world to hear if it cares to listen does not automatically mean that we could not be sued for the further publication and dissemination of such a statement.

It appears that you have handled [redacted] very well indeed and it is to be hoped that the incident is closed. However, we have had so many unfortunate encounters with the [redacted] that I do not want to take any chances, however slight, of having further trouble this close to the end of our stay there. I am referring your letter to the General Counsel to ascertain just where we would stand in such a case.

You have my permission to discontinue the Roundup as soon as [redacted] assumes initial coverage on [redacted]. You should, of course, give ample notice of discontinuance to recipients of your Roundup. In the meantime, check your distribution list and procedure carefully to [redacted] persons receive this publication, and take

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all possible precautions to eliminate questionable items therefrom.
This, of course, should not affect your file to Washington in any way.

If you should again be contacted by on
this or a similar matter, your original stand and attitude should be
maintained.

25X1

Sincerely,

L. K. White

LKW:hmq

cc: General Counsel thru OO

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